

Maine H1N1 Influenza (“Swine Flu”) Update

Summary of Information and Activities for Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 4 PM

7 New Cases Reported

Flu info on the Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

Maine Data:

- 14 confirmed H1N1 cases and 3 probable cases have been identified among Maine residents, along with 4 out of state residents who were ill and tested while visiting Maine, for an overall total of 21. This total includes new reports of 2 confirmed and 3 probable cases in Cumberland County and 2 confirmed cases in York County.
- **National Data:** US CDC reports 10,053 confirmed and probable cases and 17 deaths (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>).
- **International Data:** WHO reports 17,410 cases in 62 countries (<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>).

Recent Updates:

Case finding:

- Seven Maine residents have been identified with H1N1 in the past 48 hours: 5 in Cumberland County and 2 in York County. Cumberland County cases include three probable diagnoses among youth (including a Brunswick High School Student, reported yesterday), and two confirmed adult cases. One of the new cases is hospitalized, an adult resident of York County.
- Ten additional confirmed H1N1 cases have occurred among Maine residents: three adults and one youth in York County, three adults and two youths in Cumberland County, and one youth in Penobscot County. All have recovered.
- Four cases have been identified among non-Maine residents who were ill and underwent tested while traveling in Maine. One test was conducted in York County, 1 in Hancock County, and 2 in Lincoln County..
- The Maine CDC public health laboratory has performed over 1,700 influenza PCR tests this past month, and is now able to do confirmatory H1N1 testing, eliminating the need have specimens confirmed at US CDC.

H1N1 in other New England states:

- Although Maine CDC has identified 17 residents and 4 out of state resident with either confirmed or probable H1N1, other nearby states are seeing more of the infection, resulting in some school closures and hospitalizations.
- Massachusetts has over 600 confirmed cases of H1N1, mostly in the Greater Boston area, with 90% of them in people under 40 years of age. (<http://publichealth.blog.state.ma.us/h1n1-swine-flu/>).
- New York has also seen several hundred confirmed cases, mostly among young people, and has had several dozen schools closed.
- New Hampshire has 40 confirmed cases, with all but two under age 50 (http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm).

Key messages:

- As the infection spreads and re-circulates, the numbers of cases and specific locations become less meaningful. The number of identified cases simply indicates the presence of H1N1 in Maine.
- As the infection spreads we expect to see some increase in severity, as has been seen in other states.
- There appears to be a high spread among children and young adults.

- The strategies recommended the last four weeks continue to be very important. We all need to stay informed, be prepared, and practice proper respiratory hygiene.